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## VETERANS RETURNING TO FARM WORK

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With 650,000 World War II veterans working on farms in March 1946, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics today announced that this number was virtually half of all farm workers who entered the armed services during the war. The March figure, which is an estimate of the Bureau of the Census, was five times the number of veterans working on farms shortly after V-E day, as shown by a survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Returning veterans are taking over some of the jobs left by many who had gone into industrial employment and by 1,244,000 farmers and farm laborers who had entered the Army and Navy by June 30, 1945. <sup>1/</sup> Employment of veterans in agriculture is expected to continue to rise as the season progresses. The increase over the 650,000 working in March 1946 will come not only from veterans discharged after that time, but also from the large group of recently discharged veterans who were not working or looking for work in March.

The increase in veterans working on farms has been rapid during the past few months. A national survey made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics just after the end of the war in Europe showed that there were only 128,000 World War II veterans working on farms in May 1945. Six months later the number had more than doubled--unpublished estimates of the Bureau of the Census show that there were 280,000 World War veterans employed in agriculture by November 1945. The increase each month since November has been greater than the increase which took place in the preceding month. During February 1946, there was a net increase of 150,000 veterans working on farms, accounting for 25 percent of the total seasonal rise in agricultural employment that occurred between February and March, as estimated by the Bureau of the Census.

The May 1945 survey showed that fewer veterans were working on farms in relation to the number of farm workers who had entered the armed forces in the East and West North Central States, and more in the Western States. At that time the number of veterans working on farms in the North Central amounted to only 8 percent of the number of farm workers who had entered the Army and Navy, while in the West it was 14 percent of the entrants. In the Northeast and South, the corresponding percentages were 13 and 11 percent.

In the South and the North Central approximately one-fourth of the World War II veterans working on farms were hired workers (23 percent in the North Central, 25 percent in the South). About one-third were hired workers in the Northeast. In the West, 53 percent of all veterans employed in agriculture were hired workers. This higher proportion may be partly due to the larger proportion of hired workers in the West, partly to the higher level of farm wages in the West, and partly to other factors.

Preliminary estimates of the regional distribution of the 650,000 veteran workers on farms in March 1946 have been prepared and are shown in the accompanying table. About 370,000 are in the South, 150,000 in the North Central, 90,000 in the West and 40,000 in the Northeast. Similarly, it is estimated that approximately 190,000 are hired farm workers and 460,000 are unpaid family workers and farm operators. Preliminary estimates of the distribution of veterans working on farms by geographic divisions are shown in the accompanying table.

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<sup>1/</sup> This figure excludes the relatively few farm workers who entered the Marine Corps and Coast Guard and exclude Navy inductions and enlistments during the period April 1, 1944 to January 1, 1945. The total of the excluded group probably does not exceed 100,000.



Preliminary estimates of the numbers of World War II veterans employed in agriculture, United States and major geographic divisions, May 1945 and March 1946

Area	March 1946 1/			May 1945 2/			Total farm- ers and farm laborers in- ducted and enlisted in the Army and Navy through June 30, 1945 3/
	Total	Farm opera- tors and employed in agri- culture	Hired unpaid family workers	Total	Farm opera- tors and employed in agri- culture	Hired unpaid family workers	
United States	650,000	462,000	188,000	128,000	91,000	37,000	1,244,000
Northeast	44,000	29,000	15,000	9,000	6,000	3,000	70,000
New England	11,000	7,000	4,000	2,300	1,500	800	18,000
Middle Atlantic	33,000	22,000	11,000	6,700	4,500	2,200	52,000
North Central	145,000	111,000	34,000	29,000	22,000	7,000	371,000
East North Central	59,000	45,000	14,000	11,800	8,900	2,900	151,000
West North Central	86,000	66,000	20,000	17,200	13,100	4,100	220,000
South	367,000	276,000	91,000	72,000	54,000	18,000	671,000
South Atlantic	114,000	86,000	28,000	22,400	16,800	5,600	209,000
East South Central	121,000	91,000	30,000	23,700	17,800	5,900	221,000
West South Central	132,000	99,000	33,000	25,900	19,400	6,500	241,000
West	94,000	44,000	50,000	18,000	9,000	9,000	132,000
Mountain	39,000	18,000	21,000	7,000	3,500	3,500	66,000
Pacific	55,000	26,000	29,000	11,000	5,500	5,500	66,000

1/ Estimates of total World War II veterans employed in agriculture from the Bureau of the Census, Monthly Report on the Labor Force, April 1946. Distribution by four major regions and by class of workers estimated on basis of a BAE survey, May 1945. Distributions within regions by major geographic divisions based on number of farmers and farm laborers inducted and enlisted in the armed forces through June 30, 1945, supplied by the Selective Service System, with adjustment for Pacific States to allow for some influx of veterans from other States.

2/ Estimates for United States and four major regions are from a BAE national enumerative survey. Distributions within regions by major geographic divisions based on data from the Selective Service System, with adjustment for Pacific States as indicated in footnote 1/.

3/ Tabulations supplied by the Selective Service System. Figures exclude Marine Corps and Coast Guard; they also exclude Navy inductions and enlistments from April 1, 1944 to January 1, 1945. The excluded groups probably do not exceed 100,000.